



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

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Arizona Department of Public Safety, Phoenix Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) introduce IIMPACT Arizona

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) targets criminal organizations profiting from illegal immigration

On May 2nd 2008, Arizona Department of Public Safety Director Roger Vanderpool, Phoenix Police Department Chief Jack Harris and ICE Acting Special Agent in Charge Troy Henley unveiled the new IIMPACT detention and intake facility in Phoenix.

The facility will also be the headquarters for IIMPACT Arizona, a unique, multi-agency entity whose goal is to deter, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations profiting from illegal immigration.

IIMPACT was formed almost a year ago as an equal partnership among DPS, ICE and the Phoenix Police Department. It has been in active operation since December, 2007. It is managed by the Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM), a multi-agency task force administered by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS).

IIMPACT was designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. The Arizona Corridor is one of the busiest and most violent human smuggling corridors in the country. The criminal organizations involved in the smuggling of aliens will violate any law and have total disregard for human life. The violent, collateral crimes related to the smuggling infrastructure include kidnapping, assault, rape, murder, home invasions, hijacking, and vehicle collisions while attempting to evade police.

“Even in the short time it has been operational, IIMPACT is already making a difference as we in law enforcement deal with the scourge of human smuggling and all the crime associated with it. This joint agency response to this enormous problem includes intelligence sharing, dedicated resources, database links and manpower support. By going after the organizations that are profiting from this practice, IIMPACT is sending a message that it’s going to be difficult for human smugglers and related entities to do business in Arizona,” said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

“IIMPACT offers a proactive approach in combating the violence and criminal activity associated with human smuggling,” said Troy Henley, acting special agent in charge of the ICE

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office of investigations in Arizona. “The partnership we have established here will greatly enhance our ability to target the criminal organizations behind smuggling,”

“The Phoenix Police Department is proud to be an active member in the IIMPACT program. The goal of IIMPACT is to target violent criminal organizations engaged in human smuggling activities. It is these activities that endanger our neighborhoods and put our citizens at risk. I have been pleased on how effective IIMPACT has been in combating these threats,” said City of Phoenix Public Safety Manager/Police Chief Jack Harris

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